GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:572
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
COCHLEAR IMPLANT FACILITY
Singh Shri Sitaram

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly developed nuclear cochlear implant facility has the potential to treat seriously disabled, deaf and dumb persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether AIIMS and all major hospitals have acquired this device in large numbers so as to provide this facility to the needy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b): The Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have intimated that cochlear implant has the potential to treat seriously disabled deaf and dumb persons with limited indications according to the age of the patient as well as age at onset of deafness. Cochlear implant was approved by FDA for adults in 1986 and for children in 1990. Nucleus cochlear implant is one of the implants available in the Indian market alongwith implants of other companies.

(c)& (d): The Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi have intimated that four versions (types) of nucleus cochlear implant are available in the market costing from approximately Rs.5.17 lakh to Rs. 9.5 lakh each. Major hospitals are recommending it for patients with selected (clinically defined) conditions. The implant is procured by the patients themselves. At AIIMS also the cost of implant is borne by the patients.